

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An intervertebral spacer device, comprising:

a spacer body dimensioned to fit between two vertebrae, the spacer body having a leading end and a trailing end;

the spacer body having a plurality of outer surfaces, the plurality of outer surfaces including a first-outer-convexly curved upper surface extending between the leading end and the trailing end of the spacer body and a second-outer-convexly curved lower surface extending between the leading end and the trailing end of the spacer body, the ~~first and second outer~~ upper and lower surfaces facing away from one another,

the spacer body having a plurality of linear grooves engagable by an intervertebral spacer device insertion tool having a plurality of linearly extending groove engagement members, the plurality of linear grooves including a first linear groove formed in the first-outer-convexly curved upper surface and a second linear groove formed in the second-outer-convexly curved lower surface, the first and second linear grooves being parallel to one another.

2. (currently amended) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 1, wherein each of the ~~first and second outer~~ upper and lower surfaces is convex.

3. (cancel)

4. (original) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 1, wherein the spacer body has a rectangular pillow shape characterized by convex upper and lower surfaces and rounded corners and rounded edges.

5. (currently amended) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of linear grooves comprises a first ~~set~~ pair of linear grooves formed in the ~~first~~ outer-upper surface and a second ~~set~~ pair of linear grooves formed in the ~~second-outer-lower surface, the first ~~set~~ pair of linear grooves being parallel to the second ~~set~~ pair of linear grooves.~~

6. (currently amended) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 5, wherein each linear groove in the first ~~set~~ pair of linear grooves is directly opposite a respective one of the linear grooves in the second ~~set~~ pair of linear grooves.

7. (original) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 1, wherein the spacer body comprises a porous material.

8. (original) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 6, wherein the porous material of the spacer body is selected from the group consisting of porous metals, compacted wire meshes, bone morphogenic protein, and polylactic lactic acid.

9. (currently amended) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second linear grooves has a rounded, smooth surface.

10. (original) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 8, wherein at least one of the first and second outer surfaces is rough.

11-19. (canceled)

20. (new) An intervertebral spacer device comprising:

a spacer body dimensioned to fit between two vertebrae, the spacer body having a leading end and a trailing end and sides that extend between the leading and trailing ends;

the spacer body having a plurality of outer surfaces, the plurality of outer surfaces including a first outer surface and a second outer surface, the first and second outer surfaces facing away from one another;

the spacer body having a plurality of linear grooves having a rounded surface that extends continuously between the leading and trailing ends of the spacer body, wherein the plurality of linear grooves includes at least one first linear groove formed in the first outer surface and at least one second linear groove formed in the second outer surface.

21. (new) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 20, wherein the at least one first linear groove and the at least one second linear groove are parallel to one another.

22. (new) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 20, wherein the first outer surface is convexly curved between the leading and trailing ends of the spacer body and the second outer surface is convexly curved between the leading and trailing ends of the spacer body.

23. (new) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 20, wherein the at least one first linear groove includes a pair of first linear grooves formed in the first outer surface and extending between the leading and trailing ends of the spacer body.

24. (new) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 23, wherein the first outer surface is convexly curved between the pair of first linear grooves.

25. (new) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 20, wherein the first outer surface is convexly curved between the sides of the spacer body.

26. (new) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 20, wherein the at least one second linear groove includes a pair of second linear grooves formed in the second outer surface and extending between the leading and trailing ends of the spacer body.

27. (new) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 26, wherein the second outer surface is convexly curved between the pair of second linear grooves.

28. (new) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 26, wherein the second outer surface is convexly curved between the sides of the spacer body.

29. (new) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 20, wherein the at least one first linear groove comprises a first pair of linear grooves formed in the first outer surface and the at least one second linear groove comprises a second pair of linear grooves formed in the second outer surface, wherein the first pair of linear grooves are parallel to the second pair of linear grooves

30. (new) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 29, wherein each of the linear grooves in the first pair

of linear grooves is directly opposite a respective one of the linear grooves in the second pair of linear grooves.

31. (new) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 29, wherein the first outer surface defines a convexly curved upper surface of said spacer body and wherein the convexly curved upper surface extends between the first pair of linear grooves.

32. (new) The intervertebral spacer device of claim 29, wherein the second outer surface defines a convexly curved lower surface of said spacer body and wherein the convexly curved lower surface extends between the second pair of linear grooves.